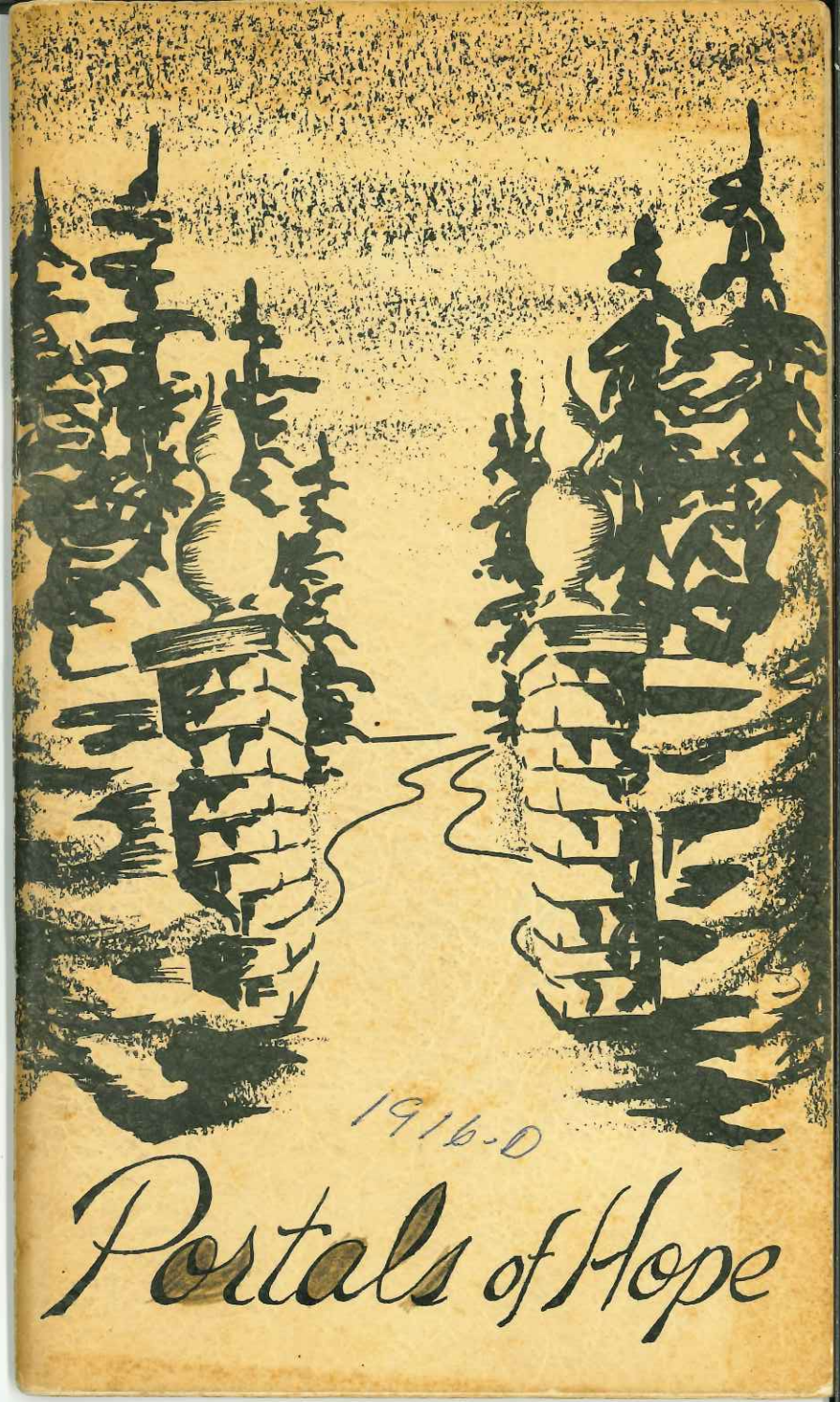

1916-D

Portals of Hope

Portals of Hope

PUBLISHED BY

STUDENT CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Not a single masterpiece of literature is contained between these two covers; so do not look for great literary works. Instead, we ask you to read the contents of this booklet searching for **Portals of Hope** to give your day added strength.

Each meditation is dedicated to you by girls who tried to let light shine from some doorway to offer hope to you. We leave you with a challenge to open wider the portals so that more light may pour out to radiate lives of others.

S.C.A. Cabinet

Disinterested or Uninterested

I was very much amazed to learn recently the differences between the two words - disinterested and uninterested. A disinterested person is one without selfish interest, and an uninterested person is one who is just not concerned.

When it comes to religion, too many of us are uninterested rather than disinterested. Christianity is a giving religion and a sharing religion. We would find ourselves extremely happy if we would learn to forget ourselves and think more of others.

I remember a little formula for happiness that I learned when a child.

J - Jesus first
O - Others second
Y - Yourself last

If we would follow this I believe our lives would be happier and our joy would be fulfilled by seeing the happiness of others.

"Love thyself last; look near, behold thy duty
To those who walk beside thee down life's road;
Make glad their days by little acts of beauty
And help them bear the burden of earth's load.

Love thyself last; look far and find the stranger
Who staggers 'neath his sin and his despair;
Go, lend a hand and lead him out of danger
To heights where he may see the world is fair.

Love thyself last; the vastnesses above thee
Are filled with spirit forces, strong and pure,
And fervently these faithful friends shall love thee,
Keep thy watch over others and endure.

Love thyself last; and thou shalt grow in spirit
To see, to hear, to know and understand;
The message of the stars, lo, thou shalt hear it,
And all God's joys shall be at thy command."

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

"The King's business required haste."

I Samuel 21:8

Yesterday was the day to do it. But yesterday is gone. Now, today is the day, so get busy; it may be later than you think.

I can think of three reasons why we should hurry. One is because our time is so short. Another, souls are dying, and still another, there is so much to do.

"Nothing to do!" in this world of ours,
Where weeds grow up with the fairest flowers;
Where smiles have only a fitful play,
Where hearts are breaking every day?

"Nothing to do!" thou Christian soul,
Wrapping thee round in thy selfish stole?
Off with the garments of sloth and sin,
Christ, thy Lord, hath a kingdom to win.

"Nothing to do!" and thy Saviour said,
"Follow thou me, in the path I tread."
Lord, lend thy help the journey through,
Lest, fain, we cry, "So much to do!"

Author Unknown

Forbid it, Lord, that there should be
a starless crown in heaven for me.

Why Worry?

"Take no thought for tomorrow, what you shall eat or what you shall drink..." Matthew 6:25-34

In this day of threat of total destruction by nuclear weapons there is too much anxiety about what will happen. The human race seems to be in a great hurry to go we know not where. This little poem made me stop and think:

Said the Robin to the Sparrow,
"I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."

Said the Sparrow to the Robin,
"Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me."
E. Cheney

However, the wonderful fact is that we do have a heavenly Father who cares for us. All we need do is realize it. Take time out from your busy life to talk to God. It only takes a minute and it can make your entire day more worthwhile. Talk to God and trust in Him. If this is done, there will be no needless anxiety about tomorrow. An attitude of forethought is commendable, but apprehension which brings worry and weakness ruins the spirit of confidence which should exist in our holy faith.

Prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, You have saved us from many dangers in the past. Save us, we pray, from troubles that our fears alone make real. Help us to be calm and serene as our Savior Jesus Christ. In His name we pray.

Amen.

Prayer

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Unuttered or expressed;
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death;
He enters heav'n with prayer."

Yes, prayer is "the soul's sincere desire" and "the Christian's vital breath," but do we as Christians really take advantage of the great privilege of prayer, Christ prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane for hours. Do we earnestly pray ten minutes a day?

Prayer is talking with God. When we are in our own homes, we speak freely with our earthly parents. Therefore shouldn't we also talk often with our heavenly Father?

In our busy days here at Columbia College let's set aside a few moments each day to converse with God. Moreover, as we pray we should remember to listen in order to hear what God has to say to us. Prayer should be and may become an important part in our lives.

Prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, in our crowded days at school, help us remember to set aside a time each day for quiet meditation with Thee. Strengthen us, O God, and enable us to do our best at all times. In Thy Son's holy name.

Amen

Happiness

Jesus said he came that we may have life, and that we may have it more abundantly. Today there is among the tranquilizer pills one called the Happiness Pill. Many are relying on these to free them from their worries. All of us want happiness and freedom from fear and worry. But it takes more than a pill to bring real and lasting happiness. The reason many people do not find this happiness is because they are looking for it in the wrong places. Some are seeking it in wealth or material possessions. Others are looking for it in power, in work, or in entertainment. Happiness does not come as a result of one's seeking for it. It is a by-product of the way we live and so it must come from within the human heart.

I know that many of you here at Columbia College often say, "I would be the happiest girl in the world if I just had money or fame or 'looks' or - something. But let us remember that many who have all of these are still not happy. Real happiness can come through service to mankind, a job well done for the glory of God. It can come by being a friend to Jesus and by letting Him live in and through us. Yes, Jesus came that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, help us to prepare ourselves for the tasks of life. May we find that great happiness that can come through service to Thee and to mankind.

Amen

Faith

Faith, even as small as the mustard seed, is a blessing to those who have it. First, we must have faith in God. He is our loving Father. He made us and the world in which we live. He knows our every thought and our every need. He loves us and cares about everything we do. He is able to do wonderful things for us if we will let Him. He will take care of us.

Then, too, we must have faith in ourselves. We have talents and abilities to do many things. Add to this the power of prayer that can bring more strength to us. Remember that God can use the little that we have to bring forth big results.

Also, we must have faith in other people, our friends, our family, and even people whom we do not know. No one can live alone in this world. We depend on one another for many of the needs and comforts of life, including love and social needs. Many times we are inclined to observe only the greed and sin in the world instead of looking for the good in everyone. We must remember that God made all people and we must love them as God loves them. This we can do by trying to understand them and to minister to their needs. Love and understanding help to bring faith.

With faith in God, in ourselves, and in others, life will be worth living.

Prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, give us faith in Thee, in thy love and in thy power. Help us also to believe in ourselves, realizing that we are thine and that we have been blessed with talents and abilities. Help us to use these to the glory of thy Holy Name. Then help us to have faith in our fellowman throughout the world. With this faith may we have strength to live for thee and to do thy will.

Amen

Unseen Beauty

The beauty of a bright blue sky dotted with fleecy white clouds or a full blown dogwood tree swaying in the crisp breeze is easy to see and often commented on or written about, but what about the underlying beauty of God's creation? Often we do not look close enough to see the fine points of a masterpiece. We study about the wonder and seemingly magic of the atom. We read everyday about the further development of man's mind. The processes of the sun, moon, and stars we find explained in detail in our textbooks. We may spend whole months discovering the activity of the earthworm or frog, but do we see beauty in these things? The perfection of each tiny cell of an animal or plant is in itself a gift of God, a fine point of His masterpiece of creation. Pain itself is beauty when we consider that pain helps us to detect diseases that might otherwise destroy our bodies. This beauty is greater and deeper than any beauty seen by the eyes for this beauty is the beauty of the mind and of knowledge. Therefore let us devote this time we spend in college developing our minds to developing a deep sense of beauty also. Let us explore the fine points of God's masterpiece. There are many of these not yet known to man, and only those who search will find.

Prayer:

O Lord, we pray that with Thy help we might develop a keen sense of beauty. May we recognize each act of nature as a gift from Thee. In the name of Christ we pray.

Amen

Time For God

Have you heard God speak to you lately? If you haven't, perhaps it is because you let other activities crowd out your relationship with God. This relationship should be a living and growing one and can become such if you so desire.

God is a loving Father, and He expects you to talk with Him as freely and as often as you would with your earthly parents. In order to do this you must set aside a few minutes each day for quiet meditation with God. During this period of solitude you can become much better acquainted with the creator of this vast universe.

As you become more familiar with God, you may find that He is a source of comfort in a time of need. You may find yourself relying more and more upon His help and seeking His quidance often through prayer.

A close relationship with God will make all the difference, and this can be achieved if you will just

"Take time to be holy,
Speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always,
And feed on His word."

Prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, be with us, O Lord, and help us to take time for Thee. In Christ's name.

Amen

Do We Have Faith?

Faith is the center of our lives. We need Faith in things that we have not seen and those things that we do not understand.

It is essential to Christianity. We know about it from the need to believe in Christ. A good example of this would be in John 20:29 in which Jesus says to Thomas, "Blessed are those that have not seen and yet have believed." Thomas had seen Christ and his wounds and he believed that Christ had been nailed to the cross and crucified but we have to have Faith to believe this.

This is true in life also. We need to have Faith in everyday life for those things we do not see and do not understand. We here at Columbia College have Faith in many things which we merely take for granted. We write a check or accept a check without calling the bank to investigate. We look at our watch without the understanding of how it operates mechanically and believe that it keeps time correctly. We go to classes each morning without a doubt in our minds as to whether the professor will be there or not. We go to our doctor and tell him where we have pains and we believe in his diagnosis. These are only a few of the things which don't require a particular understanding on our part but they so require faith.

The Faith of Christianity in its Saviour is sure. Although the check may bounce, the professor fail to come to class, the watch stop in the middle of the night, or the doctor go wrong - Christ never fails. I believe that to a great degree the Faith in an undeviating Savior is the basis of all Faith. Surely we need a Faith in people and things; for in this life we will not understand many things and may not even see many things in which we have much Faith.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we need thee so much. Help us to have a stronger faith in thee. Our hearts are often heavy with life's burden but thou dost love us and never fail us. Lead us in thy pathways.

Amen

What Do You Value?

Many times in our lives, we are guilty of putting too much emphasis upon the small, trivial matters that we confront and somehow overlook the things that really count. It doesn't matter nearly so much what a girl wears as to what this girl thinks and believes. Often we find ourselves looking for the material values and bypassing the spiritual values that really fall on the side of the assets in the final analysis. Jesus said "Seek ye the kingdom of Heaven and all these things will be added unto thee." Are we not often guilty of changing this to meet our needs and saying that we will seek the material and if anytime is left, we will seek the Kingdom of God and will emphasize the valuable?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us in our lives here at Columbia College to find the valuable and important things in life, and upon finding them, help us to emphasize them.

Amen

* * * * * *

"When men cease to wonder, God's secrets remain unveiled."

Wonder....In a little boy's face as he watches a big road machine at work--

Wonder....in a tiny girl's face as she looks up into the starry firmament--

You've seen it millions of times, and you've experienced it as many. We look at this vast, beautiful earth of ours and wonder at God's work. We look around at the poverty, filth, and immorality, and wonder about God, about religion, about life, and death.

Tryon Edwards has given us some words which may console us in these times of doubt and discouragement.

"The effort to explain everything, sometimes may endanger faith - Many things God reserves to Himself, and many are reserved for the unfolding of the future life."

"Be still and know that I am God."
Psalms 46

Your days at Columbia College are busy days and always will be. Classes, committee meetings, chatting with friends, studying and dating - this is college life, or what it appears to be. But this is only the surface. The deeper elements are those facets of personality which you are developing to a greater extent - your ways of behaving, your ways of believing, your ways of feeling.

Every experience you have, everyone you meet, everything that you see and hear makes some lasting impression on the development of your personality.

What kind of "ideal personality" have you set up for yourself? Is spiritual growth a part of your plan? Many times it may seem hard to keep the spiritual elements of your personality in their proper perspective. Often they tend to become minimized and even lost in surge of activities which occupy the major portion of your day. When, you may be asking, will I find time to meditate and talk with God the way I should? The moment you awake each morning or the quiet and stillness of early evening are moments opportune to offer thanksgiving, to ask guidance, to seek the plans which God has for your personality. Pause somewhere in your typical day. Be still and know that God is there.

TODAY

"For we are come in a good day."

I Samuel 25:8

"Yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision; but today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope."

What are you doing with today? Everyone is too prone to think, "There's plenty of time, I'll do that tomorrow." Yesterday is dead. Tomorrow is yet unborn. But today is your valuable possession. What one does or leaves undone today may change the whole curve of his life. This does not mean that in order to take full advantage of life, one must be busy every hour of the day. Rest and calmness are a vital part of every day. Taking time for friendliness and graciousness is very important. A proper blending of relaxation and hard work; of being alone and of helping others; of recreation and worship is necessary for a full life. Each night say to yourself, "Today will soon be yesterday. Is it a dream of happiness? Will tomorrow be a vision of hope?"

Prayer:

Dear Father, it is Thee who gives us each new day. May we remember this and be able to feel at the close of each day that it has been well lived. Help us meet every day with a fresh mind, a hopeful heart, and a simple trust in Thee.

Amen

What Kind of a Friend Are You?

One can do many things, but never without good friends. College is an ideal place to make new friends and to maintain old friendships. One of a person's most cherished possessions is his friends.

Now, it is one thing to be a friend and another to be friendly. Can you remember the story about Job in the Bible when he was desperately in need and his friends lost faith in his character? Instead of standing by him in his time of need they turned their back to him because they doubted his integrity. They could have made it easier on him by offering understanding and helpful suggestions. True friends do not only see a friend's problem out of their own eyes but through their friend's eyes. That's what makes Jesus such a real friend.

"Oh the comfort,
The inestimable comfort
Of feeling safe with a person;
Having neither to
Weigh thoughts not measure words
But pour them all right out,
Just as they are,
Chaff and grain together;
Certain that a faithful hand
Will take them and sift them
Keep what is worth keeping
And, with the breath of kindness,
Blow the rest away."

Author Unknown

Prayer:

O God, consider and hear me: I have trusted in thy mercy: my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.

Amen

"For what doth it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?"

We are students in college now, more or less "on our own." We must make a decision as to life values. Of course, we wish to be prepared for a job which will give us the money we will need for material things of life and we would like to be considered successful, but let us be aware that in so doing we must not "sell" our soul. One can easily "lose" or "sell" one's soul by lying, cheating, yielding to temptation, breaking rules or laws, etc., and not caring that these things have been done. If we do err and are truly sorry and ask forgiveness our Gracious, Heavenly Father is ready and willing to forgive, but if we constantly forget his laws and have not repentance in our hearts our souls are being sold and we will be lost eternally.

* * * * * * * * * *

Not Important?

He gave me a daisy; I mumbled my thanks. He opened my car door; I took it for granted. I took for granted all his small but beautiful acts of kindness, and never once considered his troubling. Now he's gone, and now I appreciate him - but it's too late. Those moments can never be recalled, but oh, if they only could. God exposes us constantly to his truths, but like blind fools we stumble on unaware of living examples placed in our paths.

Prayer:

Our Father of Truth, pause us in our selfish rush, and guide us toward consideration of others. Make us realize that no well-rounded person can exist without others. Through Jesus Christ who gave his life for others, we pray.

Amen

"Ask and it shall be given you."

Matthew 7:7a

"He's asking for it," we've often heard. This doesn't mean that a person is asking for something in so many words but instead by the way he is acting. If a person drives too fast, he's asking for a wreck. If a person sits in a tub of cold water, he's asking for a cold. If a person eats too much, he's asking for indigestion.

What are we asking for? How are we conducting our lives? The way we live each day is very important, not only to ourselves but to those who live around us. We are being depended on, looked up to and judged. As younger children look up to us, we should look up to our Saviour, Jesus Christ, because through Him we will know what to ask for.

* * * * * * * * * *

Education

"Whom, then do I call educated?" asked Socrates. "First, those who control circumstances instead of being mastered by them; those who meet all occasions manfully and act in accordance with intelligent thinking; those who are honorable in all dealings, who treat good-natureqly persons and things that are disagreeable; and, furthermore, those who hold their pleasure under control and are not overcome by misfortune; finally, those who are not spoiled by success."

Can we call ourselves educated? Can we meet these standards set down by Socrates?

We have a wonderful opportunity here before us. If we appreciate it, and give to it even more than we can expect to gain from it, our goal will be reached.

Prayer:

Our most gracious Father, how fortunate we are to have been given the ability to think and to reason. Help us to use our talents to glorify thee.

Amen.

You Are An Individual

Each of us at the time of our conception was given certain talents and potentials by God. Each of us is an individual, and nowhere in the world are there two people who are alike.

God has also given to us minds that are not like anyone else's. He has given us the capacity to reason, to think, and to reflect, and He intends for us to use our minds for the betterment of ourselves and mankind. Because God has given each of us a unique mind, we each have within us the potential to leave humanity some contribution that no other person can leave. We can only do this through studying diligently daily and by questioning that which we learn. Learning facts will be of no consequence unless through questioning, reasoning, thinking, and reflecting they become integrated into a meaningful pattern to form values. Something that has never been left to humanity is yours to leave.

Are you using your God-given mind? What will be your contribution to mankind?

Prayer:

O God, Our Creator, we pray that you will help us discover ourselves. We are so limited by our human frailities, and we fail to do our best. Help us develop the strength we need to face each assignment with dedication, loyalty, and perseverance. We know that we "can do all things through Him who strengtheneth us." We pray in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

"But That's Just a Little Thing!"

How often have you heard or said it? Size is not always an indication of importance. Goliath was a giant on the field of battle, but no match for David.

These are small things which wield a mighty influence.

A rudder is a small thing. But what good is a ship without a rudder?

Springs are little things, but they are the source of large streams.

A minute is a short span of time, but all the toil and dreams of a lifetime may be lost in a minute.

Words are little things, but what power they exert for good or evil!

Dreams are little things, but out of them empires have been built, character has been molded.

Can we say, after all, that there are "little things"?

"The million little things that drop into our hands, the small opportunities each day brings. He leaves us free to use or abuse and goes unchanging along his silent way."

Helen Keller

* * * * * *

The Voice of God

"I sought to hear the voice of God,
And climbed the topmost steeple.
But God declared: "Go down again,
I dwell among the people."

True, God is awe and magnificance, but even more, God is humility and simplicity. In looking for the big powerful deeds of God, we often miss the small miracles that occur everyday and escape our notice. It takes a sharp eye to find the tiny white violet that peeps up at us from among its green leaves. Let's climb down from the high steeples and listen for the voice of God in his perfect works.

"What Will I Do With My Responsibility?"

Someone has said, "What we are is God's gift to us; what we become is our gift to God."

Life, with all its gifts and graces, is for everyone a sacred trust. Our years on the earth, our capacities and abilities, our possessions, and our immortal spirits are trusted to us by God; and the care of the moral law is that we shall ever use them to serve the highest food of ourselves and our fellow beings. To squander life's powers and fair prospects, as did the prodigal in a far country, is stark tragedy. The chief concern of every good person is to use all that has been trusted to him as the law and love of God require. We are the keepers of a stewardship. This is fundamental to every consideration of life and religion.

Can we think lightly of a phase of our living that was of such great concern to the Master of all truth? Each must answer at the bar of his own conscience and face to face with his Maker.

"I Ask My God"

I look back over all the years
And to my God I say,
"How much have I accomplished, Lord,
Along my daily way?
How have I used the talents that
You have bestowed on me?
How many are the hours I
Have spent quite foolishly?
Perhaps at times I sympathized
And lent a helping hand,
As You inspired me to love
And try to understand.
But, oh, how many are the sins,
For which I must account!
The total of them surely is
A frightening amount.
And yet I feel you love me, God,
And graciously forgive,
Because why else, dear Lord, would You
Allow my heart to live?

James J. Metcalf

A Student's Thanksgiving

God
I thank you for
Today. So many
Nice things have happened. A
Letter from home. My roomie donned
An extra smile. Sure enough, it was
Contagious. I wore that old
Skirt I bought ages ago--it looked pretty good. That
Lit test wasn't too bad; I'm glad I
Studied instead of trying to squeeze in an extra hand
of bridge.
You know, the
Chapel speaker had that extra touch which appeals to the
students. The
Physics professor explained that problem today; things
are much
clearer now.
Peach pie for dessert at lunch--tasted just like
Mother's.
Tennis wasn't too bad this afternoon, and I met that
Freshman. She seems to be so sweet. Went up
Town for a few minutes and bought my roomie a
Surcie. It wasn't too much, but she loved it and made
a big
fuss over it. Some of us went to
Walk after supper. The campus
Grass had just been cut and smelled so
Fresh and clean. Remember the
Boy I met in the canteen last week,--he called
Tonight and asked to see me this
Weekend. I was so surprised for I never dreamed that
he'd call
Me.
My, this has been such a full day, and I feel so
Humble when I realize that you,
Father, have given me all the
Blessings of
This day.
Amen.

Are You Guilty of Racial Prejudice?

Did it ever occur to you that racial prejudice was one of the things that crucified our Lord? Christ was a member of a minority race, a race that for centuries had been used as slaves first by the Egyptians and then by the Romans. Probably the Roman housewife and mother felt that the Jews had been put on earth to be servants, that they were inferior intellectually, and that their religious beliefs and practices were built on superstition and were far too emotional. Do these traits describe an accepted stereotype of any race in today's society?

There is no room in the Christian heart for racial prejudice. Our religion and all that it stands for is built on love. One cannot compartmentalize this love and still call himself a Christian. He cannot love only those who are like himself if he intends to aspire to the teachings of Christ.

The Jews had a great gift to offer the world. For years it was stifled and kept in the homes and hearts of mere serfs. The Romans did all they could, even crucified the Nazarene, to keep the Jew in his place. Must history repeat itself? Must minority groups be continually pushed aside and have their contributions to society go unrecognized? It is up to the Christian to see that this does not happen, to see that all men are accepted as equally endowed by God, and to build a world in which every man has the opportunity to develop himself to the fullest.

Prayer:

O Lord, we pray that we might profit from the example you set for us and throw off the chains of racial prejudice. May we have Christian love for all men in our hearts. In the name of Christ we pray.

Amen

Hold Out a Light

Hold out a light,
The way is dark,
No ray to guide
Yon struggling bark.
Rough rocks are near,
And wild waves roar;
Hold out a light
To show the shore.

Hold out a light;
Your brothers may
Win back to land
With your small ray;
New courage find
Life's storms to face
With strengthened faith
To win the race.

Addison Howard Gibson

Today many of us ask the question, "How can I be really true to Christianity when there is so much unchristianity surrounding me?" Jesus has said, "Ye are the light of the world." We do not put a lighted candle where it cannot be seen, but we put it where it will give light. This means that as Christians we are not to go and hide somewhere, but we have an obligation to be lights that shine into this unchristian world to make it a more decent place in which to live.

Our very lives are lights in the dark and we are to live a pattern of life that was set forth by Christ and the gospels so that others will be influenced and turn to Christ as their true light.

All of this demands a faithful turning to God in prayer, and holding fast to the high standards of character that were revealed to us by Christ so that His light will shine forth through us.

Complaining

Stop! How many times today have you complained about this or that? More than you thought, I suppose. Maybe this has been "one of those days," but I bet if you compared yourself with another fellow, you would feel pretty lucky.

Let's go back to about 7:30 this morning. I can hear you now. "Oh, if I could only stay in bed!" Now think about other people your age who are confined to their beds with a paralysis or some disease. They may be saying, "Oh, if I could only get out of bed." Yes, it makes us think twice.

Or what about all the grumbling you do about having to go to classes. No, it doesn't take long to remember that an education is a blessing and not a burden.

And then there are those ungrateful remarks like "gee whiz, not this again" which echo around the dining room. But I would like to see what you would do to please the individual tastes of a few hundred persons.

Maybe you made some of these remarks or some very similar. Now ask yourself what you gained by it. You may think you got it out of your system, and even if you did, at the same time you added to someone else's discomfort. Things never are as bad as they seem, and grumbling never helps a situation. Next time something seems too unpleasant to bear, try thinking about the nicer things.

You know, a smile is a very precious possession, and if everyone shared his smile, what a richer world this would be.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, open mine eyes that I may see the blessings which you give. Help me to bear the unpleasant moments in a way which will reflect Thy Spirit. May I make tomorrow a brighter day for others as well as myself, in Thy Name, I pray.

Amen

Influence

"Before she came," said a Crimean soldier about Florence Nightingale, "there was cussin' and swearin', but after that it was as 'oly as a church."

Have you ever stopped to realize how many people you will meet in your lifetime, how many friends you will make? Ali Ben Abu Tales says, "He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare..."

To all of our friends we give of ourselves, even though it is unknown to us, and we are influenced by them. Our thoughts, actions, and deeds are remembered by someone.

With this in mind, our actions and thoughts should be centered around something worthwhile, something worth rememberance. Our Lord has set the perfect example.

Every soul that touches yours--
Be it the slightest contact--
Get therefrom some good;
Some little grace; one kindly thought;
One aspiration yet unfelt;
One bit of courage
For the darkening sky;
One gleam of faith
To brave the thickening ills of life;
One glimpse of brighter skies--
To make this life worthwhile
And heaven a surer heritage.

George Eliot

"I am with you always"

When Jesus said, "I am with you always," He meant *always*. But in our hurried lives, especially in college, we sometimes lose sight of His abiding presence. Oftentimes we become so involved in studying, bridge playing, dating or other forms of socializing, that God seems remote and impersonal. As a result, we feel thwarted. We long for a fresh, personal manifestation of His grace and love. Many of us have felt the urgency of the soul as it is expressed by Frances Havergal:

"Speak to me by name, O master,
Let me know it is to me."

In these times our Comforter is the Holy Spirit. But we say, "Wait!" "What do you mean when you say the Holy Spirit?" In simple terms, the Holy Spirit means God Himself around us and within us. The Holy Spirit fills our hearts with the assurance that He knows us by name and that he is acquainted with all of our ways. The Holy Spirit witnesses with our spirits that we are the children of the almighty God.

Prayer:

Father, we realize that very often the cares of this life cause us to think of Thee as remote and impersonal. Please forgive all of our sins, and help us to know the real joy of companionship with the Holy Spirit. In the Master's name we pray.

Amen

Shadows of Influence

You are an individual - an individual made by God - an individual with a purpose and a lifetime to find out what it is and how to achieve success in fulfilling its demands. However, this process is not for you to go through alone, for along this bumpy road of life you pass under great shadows of influence which affect your attitudes and decisions. These might include the traditions of your race, the government of your nation, the customs of your family and the ideas of close relatives and friends that you are in contact with each day. From their ideas and from some of your own, you determine a philosophy that will help you attain your purpose in life.

As you develop into maturity along this road, you also begin spreading shadows of influence. In your college experience you have an excellent opportunity to combine knowledge and ideas to broaden your capacities in thinking. By this time your moral character is basically formed and religious impressions have been made. Only when your mind is capable of thinking these things through clearly and intelligently can you develop into real maturity. This is what decides whether the shadows you reflect are worth what they should be or not. You have a great responsibility as to what kind of impressions you make on others - every thought, word, and deed may be an influential factor in a fellowbeing's character and life.

Do not be afraid of your responsibility as a Christian; just pray for God's guidance along this life of trial and decision, have faith in His works, hope for tomorrow, and love today with all of its blessings. Build your life within this frame and its inward value will be a shining mirror reflecting shadows of influence that are worthy in God's sight.

Let's Evangelize

Remember the saying, "God has no hands but our hands. He has no feet but our feet." That means He does His work through individual people.

Jesus had twelve disciples. Each one went a different way and all but one of them accomplished for the kingdom of God something that the others could not do. Some of these men we have heard much about: Peter, Phillip, and John, for instance. Of others we have heard little more than the mention of their names as disciples. Yet, each did his work as an evangelist, or millions of people would not have heard the Gospel.

Your work as a disciple is just as important. God called you to evangelize just as surely as He called Peter, and as surely as He called John and as surely as He called Paul on the way to Damascus. He wants you to do something for Him that will not be done if you don't do it.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, who didst command us to go into all the world to preach and to be disciples, give us a keen sense of duty and a real desire to serve. May thy command be doubly forceful because of the world's needs.

Amen.

Let's Run A Race

For just a few moments let us compare our college days with a race. You know, the contestants in a race are under extreme pressure, for they're running toward a definite goal in a limited time. Strict discipline is one of the most important factors. Before one even considers entering a race, he looks over his potentialities; and if he has a strong desire, he undergoes denials of many such things as smoking, late hours, and alcoholic beverages.

There is always a goal. The goal is not easy to attain and the runner finds himself having to put forth much effort.

Then comes the day of the race. The contestants are ready. On your marks--get set--go!

In the last go-round the ones who are prepared will keep on. Others who have not disciplined their bodies will drop out. Only the ones who have kept their thoughts on a central goal will endure to the end.

Actually, isn't college somewhat of a race? We, too, are under pressure, for we're running toward a definite goal in limited time. Strict discipline of our minds is imperative if we're to be successful. If our desire is strong enough, we will drive hard toward our goal. We will deny ourselves some of the pleasures that interfere with our plans.

Our goals should be high because if they're not, we will not feel we have achieved anything. Robert Browning so beautifully said, "Oh, but man's reach exceed his grasp, or what's heaven for? "Let's set our goals way up high and run for them with all our might.

When our days of college are over we find ourselves out in the world, always with other races before us. If we have run the race well when in college, if we have kept the faith when others about us were dropping out, if we have kept our goals constantly before us, we will not find life so difficult to cope with. It will be a joy, and highest satisfaction will come with our victories.

Prayer:

Father, God, help us to keep our faith in these trying days. Sustain us when we are about to falter.

Amen

Give Us Strength---

As we go about our daily activities we are constantly among people - friends and acquaintances who are of a different creed or denomination. We need a spirit of cooperation, tolerance, and love for a true understanding of our brothers. Help us to not judge our brother nor condemn him because we differ, but give us guidance and strength to rid our minds of the ignorance and selfishness which pervades and distorts them. Only in this way can we truly serve and please thee.

* * * * * * * *

Do You Recognize God's Beauty?

Read again the 23rd Psalm.

David must have surely seen the beauty of God's perfectly made earth as he sat on the hillsides watching his flocks. This same beauty can be so clearly seen in the beauty that is ever present before us, only for the asking. Are we blind to this beauty that is ever present before us or do we recognize the manner in which God reveals His reality in His works? Only God could have made each little leaf to be different; each animal to be individual and each cloud to be just in the right place to be beautiful. Do we truly appreciate and recognize the beauty of "Our Father's World"?

"A Good Name Is Rather to be Chosen Than Great Riches"

Girls, your name may be Mary, Jane, Beth, or Ann. These are pretty names and do doubt you like your name very much, but for what does your name represent? Does it represent a pretty face, stylish clothes, plenty of spending money and questionable character? Or does it represent a fine countenance, clean clothes wise spending, and dependable character? It is alright to have money and popularity as long as the heart rules them - but so many people let material things rule the heart. You are making a name for yourself now on our campus - please let yours represent all that is good and fair.

"Good name in man and woman is the immediate jewel
of their souls;
Who steals my purse steals lead; 'tis something;
nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which enriches him not, and leaves me
poor indeed."

* * * * * * * *

A Prayer

Our Father, help us to always put our trust in Thee. It is easy to see Thee in the sunshine, in the beauty of the countryside, and in the glory of the sunset. But so often when the storm clouds gather and darkness begins to fall around us, our faith may displace fear, hope overcome discouragement, trust dispel doubt, calmness banish struggle. May Thy praise continually be on our lips and Thy love dwell in our hearts.

Amen